

# The Key Biscayne Community Foundation's Citizen Scientist Project



*Key Biscayne's*  
**Citizen Scientist**

# OBJECTIVE: MAINTAINING THE ISLAND PARADISE



# Examples of Key Resources



Beaches



Coral Reefs



Green Spaces



Mangroves



Pathways



Waterways



## Definition of Citizen Scientist:

A resident of or visitor to Key Biscayne involved in monitoring and reporting on the Key's land marine habitat and sharing news and information on projects affecting the local environment with the objective of maintaining the natural resources of the Key.



# The Key Biscayne Citizen Scientist Project:

**Vision:** A future Key Biscayne characterized by the same bounty and quality of natural resources that exist today, thus maintaining the title of Island Paradise.

**Mission:** Using Citizen and Professional Scientists, develop and continuously update the project's web site to provide the information needed to maintain the most critical natural resources of Key Biscayne.

## CITIZEN SCIENTIST PROJECT'S SPONSORS



UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI

ROSENSTIEL  
SCHOOL of MARINE &  
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE



 **Knight Foundation**



## SPONSOR: Knight Foundation

The Knight Foundation provides funding support for community information and engagement projects. Responding to the Knight Community Information Challenge, the Key Biscayne Community Foundation was awarded a 2-year grant (June 2012 – July 2014) to conduct the Citizen Scientist Project.





## SPONSOR:

# Key Biscayne Community Foundation

Executive Director: Melissa White

The Key Biscayne Community Foundation (KBCF) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization which is developing a Citizen Scientist Program to assist with the preservation of the natural resources of Key Biscayne as well as to develop an informed and engaged community. The program will work with a group of 'Citizen Scientists' to address the various challenges to the maintenance of the environmental riches of the Island Paradise.



## SPONSOR:

### Village of Key Biscayne

The Village of Key Biscayne has provided fiscal support to the Citizen Scientist Project. This support recognizes the common goals of the scientist project and the Key's 2020 vision, activities directed at maintaining the natural resources of the Island.





# SPONSOR:

University of Miami

Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science

Dr. A. Baker, Dr. D. Lirman, Dr. L. Krinsky, Laura Bracken, Audra Burchfield, Allison Conner

RSMAS and the Village of Key Biscayne have formed a partnership to characterize the natural land and marine resources of the Island. RSMAS personnel, in particular, have provided critical resources needed to successfully complete Citizen Scientist projects.

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ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE



## CITIZEN SCIENTIST PROJECT'S PARTNERS



**KEY BISCAYNE  
PRESBYTERIAN**



**CHURCH SCHOOL**  
WORKING WITH PARENTS AS PARTNERS



**Principals' Coalition**  
for the Good of the Children



St. Agnes Academy



## Partner Involvement:

Partners and Sponsors are critical to meet Citizen Scientist Project activities, examples include:

- RSMAS: Fish Clinic, Lectures and Field trips
- Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park: Lectures, Fish Clinic and Field trips
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center: Lectures and Field trips





## What are the project goals:

### Survey, Information Service, Hands-On Projects:

- Design and distribute a survey to determine areas of importance to residents;
- Identify key information gaps;
- Establish a visual mapping database of data and information collected;
- Construct and keep a current web portal to house the database
- Construct a citizen science lab
- Develop and construct hands-on projects to raise awareness of Key residents (particularly Key students) about Island resources.



## Information Service:

Web Portal will include schedule of events, opportunities for participation, news, calendar

- Calendar of Events
  - April 18<sup>th</sup>: Biscayne Bay Water Quality;
  - Mid-May: Hurricanes;
  - Mid-June: Key Beaches
- Opportunities
  - Baynanza Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day
- News
  - Crandon Park Marina Boat Launch Temporarily Closed;
  - Modifications of bike/walking paths across Bear Cut Bridge



## Citizen Scientist Web Portal:

The Citizen Scientist web portal will also contain two types of information on the Key's natural resources

- Information obtained from studies of Key Biscayne and Virginia Key done in the past. This information will provide the conditions of the Key's resources during previous years, decades, etc.
- Information obtained by the Citizen Scientists on the present conditions of the Key's resources. Through comparisons with the older data, changes can be determined and if harmful, possible remedies can be taken.

## Key Biscayne's Citizen Scientist LAB:

- Key Biscayne's Citizen Scientist Lab provides a place to record and organize your findings in and around our island and to learn more about our island. It encourages the participation of a wide variety of residents and visitors to Key Biscayne, including, but not exclusive to, students, seniors, families, birders, beach combers, park rangers, professors, ecologists, and fishermen.



Explore



Map



Learn



Record

# Hands-On Projects:

## Youth Fishing Clinic



# Hands-On Projects:

## KBCF Citizen Scientist Sighting Form:

### Sample Sighting Form For Iguanas



- Sighting data and time
- Sighting location (as detailed as possible)
- Number of Iguanas sighted
- Size of Iguanas (length, width, etc)
- Color of Iguanas
- Health of Iguanas (visual estimate)
- Length of sighting
- Activities of Iguanas during sighting
- Pictures of Iguanas, if possible
- Any other comments relative to sighting
- Your Name
- School/ Grade
- Your email address



# Contacting the Citizen Scientist Project:

The Key Biscayne Citizen Scientist Project welcomes your input and strives to maintain open and clear lines of communication with Key Biscayne residents, visitors, and anyone interested in becoming a citizen scientist.

Please use any of the following contact information to get in touch with us, or simply fill out the Contact Form to submit your questions or comments directly to us.

**Address:**

50 West Mashta Drive, Suite 3

Key Biscayne, FL 33149

Phone: (305) 361-2770

Website: [www.KeyScience.org](http://www.KeyScience.org)

Email: [info@KeyScience.org](mailto:info@KeyScience.org)

## Desired Outcome of Project:

- Key Biscayne residents and visitors obtain, record, and provide to the Project information needed by present and future generations to maintain the most valuable of the Island's resources.



MAINTAINING THE ISLAND PARADISE